Melissa Burt-Miller| Social Welfare Policy & Services| Journal #2

Instructions:

- Identify the eight key elements of policy frameworks.

- Note the ways in which these elements are highly rational and systematic, and therefore somewhat incompatible with the political process through which policies are actually adopted.

Identify the eight key elements of policy frameworks.

According to Karger & Stoesz (2018), The eight key elements that policy frameworks are characterized are as follows:

1. Policy frameworks systematically analyze a social policy or program.
2. Policy frameworks reflect the understanding that social policy is context sensitive, and there are competing priorities in all policy options.
3. Policy frameworks employ rational methods of inquiry and analysis. The data used in policy analysis is derived from scientific inquiry and legitimate sources, and it is objectively interpreted and analyzed.
4. The analytic method is explicit in all succeeding policy analyses should approximate the same conclusion.
5. Policy analysis is based on the commitment to derive the largest possible social and economic benefit at the least possible social economic cost.
6. Policy frameworks should attempt to take into account the unintended consequences of the particular policy or program.

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Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach*. **Pearson.**

7. Policy analysts should consider alternative social policies or alternative uses of present or future resources allocated to a given policy.

8. Policy frameworks should employ models that examine the potential impact of a policy (or a series of policies) on other social policies, social problems, and the public good.

Retrieved from: Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2018). American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach. Pearson.

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A key component of policy framework is to systematically examine specific social welfare policy or a set of policies rather, to evaluate the compatibility of a policy with the mission and goal of the social welfare state (Karger & Stoesz, 2018). The elements listed are highly rational and systematic in the sense that they reflect the underpinnings of policy analysis, which is to; engage in systematic investigation of a social policy or set of policies, scrutinize and research the feasibility of a policy, and analyze the viability and effectiveness of the policy in order to effect change. Therefore, all eight elements of the policy frameworks embody characteristics that demonstrates clear logical thoughts and values that aims at creating a policy that benefits the targeted group that the policy is made for without hurting no one; Pareto Optimality.

Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach*. Pearson.

Though the elements that policy frameworks are characterized by are considered highly rational and systematic, there are instances in which these elements are disregarded and are incompatible with the political process through which policies are actually adopted. For example, Karger & Stoesz (2018) states that, "social policy is often driven by politics and rarely, if ever, systematically analyze", which simply means that certain policies are implemented to push a political agenda that is favorable to a political party, or is implemented in a way "to ensure its failure in cases where the policy cannot be outright defeated" (Karger & Stoesz, 2018). Actions like these right out disregard the key elements of a policy framework making it in compatible. A prime example of implementing policies for political gain in my opinion is Donald Trump's immigration policy changes that affect many families, through the denied opportunity of asylum in the United States and the separation of children from their families who were held in immigration detention centers.

Reference: Karger, H. J., & Stoesz, D. (2018). *American social welfare policy: A pluralist approach*. **Pearson**.